

'W.H.' a Boy Actor, Wilde's Theory

Shakespeare Dedicated Sonnets to Him

"Lost Manuscript" Story Told by Mitchell Kennerley—Says It Is "Hard to Cash"

To find suddenly in his possession Oscar Wilde's "lost manuscript," "The Portrait of Mr. W. H." was like having a million-dollar banknote, said Mitchell Kennerley of the Anderson Galleries, 458 Park Avenue, where he displayed the 165 precious pages today. "In other words, it couldn't be cashed," said Mr. Kennerley.

What he inferred was that possession of the script meant nothing without permission from the Wilde estate to publish it. The narration of his efforts to obtain this permission and the sheer incredulity with which his letters were met, are of unusual interest.

The theory Wilde presents in this book is that the mysterious Mr. W. H., to whom was dedicated Shakespeare's book of sonnets, boy-plays, for whom Shakespeare wrote his parts of Viola, Imogen, Rosalind, and Portia. Then he proceeds to discover the name of this actor, relying on certain passages and the playings on words they contain, which gives him the name Will Hughes.

The controversy surrounding the identity of Mr. W. H. is an old one, springing from the following dedication inscribed in the original edition of the book: "To The Gentle Bachelor Of The Name Insuring Sonnets, W. H. All Happiness And That Eternity Promised By Our Ever-Living Poet Wisheth The Well-Wishing Adventurer In Setting Forth, T. T." The last two letters are the initials of Thomas Thorpe, the publisher of the first edition of the sonnets.

There have been a multitude of opinions as to the identity of Mr. W. H., some men of literature even having believed the letters to be a misprint for W. H. i. e. William Shakespeare, or that they should read Mr. W. Hall, or Mr. William Hathaway, that they stand for Mr. Henry Willibole, a poet with the initials given, or that one German commentator went so far as to assert the letters connote "Mr. William Himself." But the consensus of opinion has inclined to the linking of the two letters to the name of William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, though there were yet others who believed they referred to the Earl of Southampton.

Willie, however, by an ingenious stroke, presumably disposes of the claims of all these gentlemen, and as far as the two peers are concerned he addresses from the sonnets what he holds to be proof that Shakespeare's Mr. W. H. was of lowly birth.

Tells of Forged Picture

Another thing of interest in the weaving into this apology the existence of a forged picture of Mr. W. H., i. e., Will Hughes, painted in a style that reminded one of Francois Clouet's later work." "It was a full-length portrait of a young man in late sixteenth-century costume, standing by a table with his right hand resting on an open book. The black velvet doublet with its fantastically gilded points, and the peacock-blue background against which it showed up so pleasantly, and from which it gained such luminous value of color, were quite Clouet's style, and the portrait was a copy of a picture in the collection of Tracy, the Earl of Cork, that hung somewhat formally from the marble pedestal had that hard severity of touch—so different from the facile grace of the Italians—which even at the Court of France the great Flemish master never completely lost, and which in itself has always been a characteristic of the artist's work. This painted figure stands one hand upon a book, and with a magnifying glass the author and one of the fictional characters are able to discern upon the book the words of the dedications of the sonnets.

Mr. Kennerley, who is to publish the manuscript now in his possession, regards as the outstanding peculiarity incident to the discovery of the "lost manuscript" not that it turned up in New York City, but that it should have been lost for twenty-six years without being destroyed.

Script Not Received

Some years after Wilde's arrest, after the crushing scandal attached to his name had been tempered by time and it was realized that whatever his character Wilde had been indubitably a man of letters and a literary artist, search was made for the missing script. But the publishing house of Messrs. Elkin Mathews and John Lane reported that the manuscript was returned to Wilde's home in Tite Street, Chelsea, and after a thorough search there it was concluded that the manuscript had been lost. From the circumstances that brought the lost writing into the hands of Mr. Kennerley he is able to piece together all available information, and his conclusion is that the script was never received by the publishers.

According to Mr. Kennerley it was the custom at that time to announce for publication a manuscript before the manuscript had been fairly begun. There is no doubt now that Wilde gave the manuscript to a literary friend, and asked him to prepare it for the printer, for it was in the house of this friend, who died, that the lost script was found. The author, after a thorough search, came across the yellowed package of folio pages only last July, and being in doubt as to their significance, they were sent to Mr. Kennerley, who straightway recognized their import.

"But it was like having a million-dollar bank note—it couldn't be cashed," said Mr. Kennerley. "A thousand years may pass before the author's writings, one cannot legally publish them without permission of the author, or it be dead, from his executor."

Accordingly, he addressed a letter to the solicitor who represented Oscar Wilde's son, the author's executor, and informed him of the nature of the manuscript he held. The solicitor advised that it couldn't be cashed, the manuscript Mr. Kennerley possessed must be that of the short essay which appeared in *Blackwood's Magazine*. The reason? Because the larger manuscript had been lost, it had been missing for twenty-six years. It was irretrievably gone.

Mr. Kennerley wrote again, but his associations again fell into an impasse. He wrote third time in no uncertain terms, and insisted he knew what he was talking about, and at last succeeded in convincing a legal British mind that he held the "lost manuscript." The upshot of these negotiations was that Mr. Kennerley agreed to give to the Wilde estate a copy of the manuscript and the full British copyright, and in return re-

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Pearls and Jewels

FIFTH AVENUE AT FORTY-SIXTH

To Discuss Social Work

Twenty Societies Represented at National Conference in Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE, June 20.—Almost every phase of social work known will be taken up and discussed during the week of June 21 to 27 at the forty-eighth annual meeting of the National Conference of Social Work and its affiliated bodies here. No fewer than twenty societies, departments, or associations will hold meetings either prior to or during the week of this conference, and thousands are expected to attend the various meetings.

The American Association for Community Organization, composed of community chest bodies, councils of social agencies, and financial federations, will hold sessions to-morrow and Wednesday, while the National Probation and Parole Association will convene this afternoon and continue its sessions until Wednesday afternoon.

The sessions on to-day and to-morrow will be devoted principally to the problems of adult delinquency, including probation, domestic relations, or family courts, clinics, and preventive work.

Sails for Museum Specimens
George K. Cherrie of the American Museum of Natural History sailed today on the steamer Colon of the Panama Steamship line for South America, where he will collect specimens and carry on investigations in natural history for the museum.

Nurse Injured in Fall

Mrs. B. M. Wallington, fifty-eight years old, a graduate nurse, of 33 Danforth Avenue, Jersey City, was taken to Bellevue Hospital yesterday from the Hotel McAlpin, after she was found unconscious at the bottom of a flight of stairs down which she had fallen. It was thought she suffered an attack of vertigo.

Justice Frank B. Gannon of Rich-

mond, who was appointed by Gov. Ne-

athan L. Miller a few months ago upon

the resignation of Justice Almer P.

Jenks, is already preparing to run

Want Place in Supreme Court

Many After Nominations in Second District

Little Credence Given Report That Hyland Might Accept One of Positions

One of the hottest contests in the approaching fall campaign is expected to centre around two vacancies on the Supreme Court bench of the Second Judicial District, which includes Long Island counties and Richmond. Al-

ready there are many candidates, and it is said that Mayor John F. Hyland

has the opportunity presented itself, would like to turn from the turmoil of a Mayoralty race to the comparative quiet of a place on the bench if he thought he could win.

In fact, it is reported in the political circles of Brooklyn that some of the Mayor's friends have put out "feathers" looking towards the possibility of a fusion between Republicans and Democrats, in which the Mayor would be a candidate for one of the positions on the bench. Little credence is given the rumor, however, for it is realized that Hyland's attempt to carry the outlying counties included in the district would be futile. It is also said to be unthinkable that the Republicans, despite such a fusion, which would probably insure the election of their own candidate, would agree to the endorsement of Hyland for any position.

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mond, who was appointed by Gov. Ne-

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again. The other vacancy will come this summer when Justice Harrington Putnam reaches the retirement age. Harry E. Lewis, District Attorney of Kings County, and W. S. Pettit of Nassau County, and Jeremiah Wood, Lieutenant Governor, are mentioned as some of the possible Republican candidates for the vacancy that will be created by Justice Putnam's retire-

ment. Mr. Wood, it is said, has his eyes on a Supreme Court judgeship for some time and is said to have played the game cleverly in an attempt to shape circumstances so that it would be favorable to him. At present, Nassau County, where Mr. Wood resides, has no Supreme Court Justice, despite the fact that a demand for representation on the bench has been made several times. If a Nassau County man were on the bench it would naturally present some obstacles to the ambitions of another Nassau County man who had a se-

vere case of the bench.

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to the Governor that Nassau County didn't need a Supreme Court Justice, for geographical reasons solely, as such a way, it is said, that there was little chance of his being appointed. Then Ralph Thompson, Richmond County leader, began to urge Justice Gannon's appointment. Other recommendations poured in, with the result that Gov. Miller sought the advice of the Lieutenant-Governor as to the situation in this corner of the State.

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fall, he or his supporters will to advance the old argument that Nassau County ought to be sent on the bench.

National City Bank Open

The uptown branch of the New York City Bank at Forty-second Street and Madison Avenue, was opened yesterday. Banking offices have been set up on the ground floor of the building, while the remainder of the structure contains general offices.



JUMPING the Hedge of Convention

She was ready for her bath. The kindly old head priest stood by the side of her tub in her temple lodgings near the Hall of Ten Thousand Lamps.

An American woman, an "S.S. Pilgrim" to St. Simeon Kyra-San, tells how she handled men and other gently delicate situations in a country of unconventional conventions in the July

ASIA

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Out today—all news-stamps—35 cents

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Seasonable

Bed Furnishings

will be on sale to-morrow at specially made concessions from regular prices.

White Blankets

60 pairs, cotton-and-wool, per pair \$4.75
40 pairs, cotton-and-wool, per pair 6.75
30 pairs, wool-and-cotton, per pair 8.50
80 pairs, wool-and-cotton, per pair 11.50

Silkoline Comfortables

cotton-filled each \$3.95

Crochet Bedspreads
hemmed each \$2.25

Fancy White Bedspreads (light-weight)

Size 2 x 2 3/4 yards each \$3.25
Size 2 1/2 x 2 3/4 yards each 4.25

Muslin Sheets and Pillow Cases at equally attractive prices

(Fourth Floor, Madison Avenue section)

A Clearance Sale of

Women's White Footwear

is now in progress on the Second Floor

The size ranges are not complete, and for this reason (and solely for this reason) these shoes have been marked at prices that warrant a speedy disposal. The models are smart and seasonable in every particular.

Safe Storage for Furs, Rugs and Draperies

Special for to-morrow

An Important Sale of

6,000 Men's

Summer Negligee Shirts

(all soft-cuff models) made of printed madras
and fine percale

offering extraordinary value at

\$1.35 each

On sale at the same time will be

300 Dozen Batwing Ties

made of fine-quality imported and American silks, presenting a large variety of smart patterns and color effects; freshly taken from stock and marked, for clearance, at the greatly reduced price of

85c. each

(This Sale will be held on the First Floor)